THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Meetings were held in the past between the Prime Minister and Chief Minister of West Bengal. A tripartite meeting was held in Delhi on January 25, 1988 which was attended by the Chief Minister, West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu, Shri Subhash Ghising, President of the GNLF and the Union Home Minister. It was agreed to have further discussions to give final shape to the concept of the Hill Development Council.

Tackling of the activities of naxalites

132. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have directed all the State Governments to gear up the official machinery to tackle the problem of Naxalites;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that some State Governments have put forward their problems to tackle the Naxalite activities;

(c) what are the details of the directions issued by the Central Government in this regard and also the details of the problems put forward by the State Governments; and

(d) what further steps the Central Government propose to take to tackle the problem of Naxalites in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A high level official meeting under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary was held on 8-1-1988 to review the threat posed by left wing extremists in some States. It was attended by Chief Secretary/Home Secretaries and other senior officials of Andhra Pradesh|Bihar|Maharashtra/Madhya Pradesh/Orrisa and West Bengal. It was agreed that vigorous implementation of socio-economic progress should go hand in hand with strict enforcement of law and order. The meeting decided that the States concerned would prepare on priority basis detailed analysis of the problems standing in the way of accelerated socio-economic development in the concerned areas. Representatives of some states requested for provision of specialized training facilities, deployment of more central forces and for providing better equipment for the police. The Ministry of Home Affairs has already arranged special training of the state forces. Some extra force is also being provided within the limitation of Government of India about availability. Some additional firearms are also being provided. Wireless facilities are also being upgraded. The State Governments have been requested to draw up schemes of social welfare includes cooperation with Planning Commission and the Ministry of Rural Development.

Inventory Prepared by the Forest Survey of India in Bihar

133. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set by the Forest Survey of India for preparing inventory during 1986-87 and 1987-88 in Bihar;

(b) whether the target set by it for 1986-87 in Bihar was achieved;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the target set for the purpose for 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Forest Survey of India has not set any target for preparing forest inventory in Bihar.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Central Assistance for the Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries in Bihar

134. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds earmarked and actually released by the Central Government for development of national parks in Bihar during the year 1987-88;

(b) the details of funds earmarked and actually released for development of sanctuaries in Bihar during the year 1987-88; and

(c) the amount likely to be earmarked for development of national parks and sanctuaries in Bihar during the financial year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) The details of funds earmarked and released for the development of national parks and sanctuaries in Bihar is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	Year	Amount Earmarked	Amount Released
Project Tiger:	1987-88	13.50	17.51
	1988-89	14.00	

Funds are not earmarked state-wise and year-wise under the schemes 'Assistance to States for Development of National Parks' and 'Assistance to States for Development of Sanctuaries. No funds have been released to Bihar under these two schemes so far in 1987-88.

Interest charged by the Central Government on loans given to the State Governments

135. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government charge a higher rate of interest from the State Governments on soft loans received by the Central Government from foreign countries at less than one per cent interest rate;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the amount of loan taken by the Bihar Government from the Central Government since 1982, year-wise and the rate of interest payable thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) State Governments are charged a uniform rate of interest on all loans given to them by Central Government (except small savings loans) irrespective of the source of funds. This is to ensure equitable treatment for all States irrespective of the source and terms of the external financing.

The additional central assistance to the States for extrenally aided projects is passed on to the State Governments, 70 per cent as loan and 30 per cent as outright grants. Even though some external assistance is available to Government of India on 'soft terms' i.e. carrying nominal or negligible rates of interest, the overall mix of external assistance carries a higher interest burden. In most cases, external